

In addition to opening up drilling off the coast of the United States, our nation should determine new ways to address the ever growing demand for energy.

I applaud local businesses in my district who have taken the lead in addressing this issue by introducing technologies for production of bio-diesel products from vegetable oil, animal fat, by-products and waste.

The Southeast Texas region is home to some of the major refineries in the United States. Companies who take waste from these refineries (currently being disposed of in landfills) and old tires and converts them through their technology into non-toxic renewable ultra clean diesel fuel and other high valued synthetic fuels should be commended. This process allows for the taking of the refinery waste, which is an environmental problem, and converting it into a renewable diesel fuel that addresses our energy problem directly.

Congress can help make alternative fuel facilities financially feasible by:

Encouraging low interest private capital financing and investment for alternative fuel and ultra clean diesel facilities

Supporting the use of tax-exempt bond financing for activities associated with the development of alternative fuel projects

Exempting alternative fuel projects from the Bond Cap provisions of the IRS Code

Permitting accelerated depreciation schedules when structuring bond financing for alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Providing tax credit incentives to investors who purchase bonds to fund alternative fuel ultra clean diesel facilities

Considering a way to assist with funding the upfront start up costs associated with these alternative fuel ultra clean diesel projects, which would include the engineering and developmental research that needs to be performed prior to seeking commercial funding for the project. This could be done in the form of grants or low interest loans.

We need to take a course of action now to encourage these alternative fuel programs or we are just becoming more dependent on foreign oil products and will not grow or have the freedom to expand and meet our public's energy needs in an environmental friendly fashion.

Southeast Texas is the energy capital of our nation. We will continue to lead the nation's energy needs by utilizing off shore drilling, nuclear power and new technologies such as bio-diesel and other alternative fuel programs. It is important we support local government and local businesses to forge ahead for our nation's energy program.

And that's just the way it is.

HONORING KAREN ROSS

**HON. RON LEWIS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelly Ross an exemplary teacher and citizen from my congressional district for being chosen as the Kentucky Education Association's 2007 National Foundation for the Improvement of Education Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Kelly is a language arts and journalism teacher at Barren County High School. She is also head of the school's English department. Kelly is a National Board Certified Teacher and past president of the Barren County Teacher's Association.

To receive this honor, Kelly was selected by a committee of former Kentucky Teacher of the Year award winners. The award also automatically nominates her for the National Teacher of the Year award.

The Kentucky selection committee highlighted Kelly's "professional practice in language arts; media and journalism, her advocacy far the profession; her leadership in professional development; her work to provide a learning environment that meets the needs far all students, regardless of differences; and community engagement."

Teaching runs in Kelly's family. Her mother, Frances Steenbergen, is a Family and Consumer Sciences teacher at Barren County High School as well as the President of the Kentucky Education Association. I would also like to recognize her husband, Eddie, and their children, Campbell and Elaine for supporting her career.

It is my great privilege to honor Kelly Ross, before the United States House of Representatives, on being chosen Teacher of the Year in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. This achievement is worthy of our appreciation and respect.

#### RECOGNITION OF TREDWAY CHILDRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES EMPLOYEE

**HON. DANIEL E. LUNGREN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, August 3, 2007*

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Madam Speaker, I want to take this opportunity to share with my colleagues a noteworthy article about the fine work of Mr. Tredway Childress, a senior restoration specialist and finisher at the House of Representatives, office of the Chief Administrative Officer.

Mr. Childress recently led the restoration of the century-old mahogany rostrum in Room 311 of the Cannon House Office Building, home to the House Ways and Means Committee from 1908–1933 and the current home of the Committee on Homeland Security. This magnificent rostrum was originally the centerpiece for debates and deliberations that surrounded the 16th Amendment and the authorization of income taxes in 1913. As a Member of the Committee on Homeland Security, I know firsthand that Tredway's handiwork in Room 311 has added dignity and a sense of history to our Committee deliberations. In addition, Mr. Childress has refinished numerous chairs and other furniture in the Capitol, including an original Cannon table 1907 vintage that I use in my Rayburn office.

Tredway was recently profiled by Don Williams, his colleague and mentor at the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute, in Woodshop News, an industry trade magazine. The article pays an important tribute to Mr. Childress. Mr. Williams notes that the restoration of the Cannon building rostrum to its previous grandeur could have only been ac-

complished by "someone with Tredway's remarkable combination of talent, education, craft skill and commitment to preserving past treasures."

Madam Speaker, I commend Mr. Childress for his outstanding service to the House of Representatives over the past 7 years and thank him for his dedication to make the furniture in my office, and many others', look more capturing than its original state. His commitment to preserving important symbols of our Nation's history will be greatly appreciated for many years.

[From Woodshop News, August 2007]

GIVING THE NATION'S CAPITOL A WINNING FINISH

TREDWAY CHILDRESS ATTRIBUTES HIS SKILLS TO THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOOD FINISHING

(By Jennifer Hicks)

Tredway Childress is the iconic example of a woodworker meeting his maximum potential. Currently employed by the U.S. Congress, he is a senior restoration specialist and finisher for the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. He is part of a team that oversees all finishing and is the caretaker to over 2,000 historic items associated with Congress and past leaders, and is also regarded as a collaborator with the Smithsonian Institution at the U.S. Capitol.

A woodworker and furniture maker in earlier years, Childress, 62, said he reached a point where he wanted to perfect his restoration skills, particularly wood finishing.

"I have always worked with furniture; built, sold and finished it. The finishing part was always the hardest—the more I did it the more I didn't understand it," said Childress.

In 1998 he moved to the Midwest for the sole purpose of attending the National Institute of Wood Finishing at Dakota County Technical College in Rosemount, Minn. To this day Childress credits instructor Mitchell Kohanek, a wood finisher of nearly 30 years, for giving him the knowledge he needed to become a professional finisher. He is now confident he is capable of getting any job he wants in the field.

Kohanek offers short-term workshops, but his nine-month diploma program is the only certified wood finishing education program in the United States. It teaches students about wood technology; selection and application of finishes; application of dyes, stains, glazes and toners; color matching; spray finishing; basic and advanced finishing; spot repair of wood, leather, and vinyl, and last but not least, refinishing and restoration. Childress raves about how the program taught him the gamut of problem-solving techniques, such as how to deal with "orange peel" results and to prevent them from happening in the first place.

A year after Childress graduated in 1998, Kohanek informed him that the Capitol was looking for a finisher to hire onto their crew of tradesmen. After a year's background screening, Childress was hired and has been there ever since.

Recently, he was the lead wood finisher during the restoration of a historic Cannon Building flame mahogany rostrum, which housed the Ways and Means Committee as early as 1907. The original drafts for the Constitution's 16th Amendment and laws enacting the income tax were almost certainly drafted at this rostrum. It doesn't get much more historic than that.

This project allowed Childress to collaborate with Don Williams, senior furniture conservator of the Smithsonian's Museum Conservation Institute and another of his mentors. The two first met during one of Williams' frequent visits to Dakota where